

10-15-2008

The Daily Gamecock, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2008

University of South Carolina, Office of Student Media

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page TWO



Today @ USC

TODAY

G.E.A Book Sale
7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Humanities Classroom
Building

Kiss the Pig
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Greene Street

FMLA Jewelry Sale
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Russell House Lobby

Student Senate meeting
4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
RH, Rooms 322/326

**UNICEF @ USC
interest meeting**
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
RH, Room 304

**Students Tackling
Academic Recovery
meeting**
6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
RH, Room 301

**Kappa Alpha Psi
Domestic Violence Forum**
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
BA, Room 005

Sunday Night Alive
7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.
RH, Room 309

SALA meeting
8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
RH, Room 305

**College Republicans
meeting**
8 p.m. to 10 p.m.
RH, Rooms 322/326

**College Democrats
Debate Watch Party**
8 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.
Gambrell 250

Wednesday Fun Facts:

Colonial Life Arena

- *The Colonial Life Arena, formerly known as the Colonial Center, is the largest arena in South Carolina, seating 18,000 for basketball games and 19,000 for other events.*
- *It is the 10th largest on-campus basketball facility in the nation and the fourth largest in the SEC.*
- *It is the largest building ever constructed at USC with 342,000 square feet.*
- *It has approximately 120 events per year and only about 25 percent are university events.*
- *When it opened in 2002, the USC women's basketball team was the first to play in the arena.*
- *It is made up of 205,384 bricks and 60,137 concrete blocks, which would stretch across Lake Murray (41 miles).*
- *The arena has 125 miles of cable, which if stretched, would reach to Folly Beach.*

— Information taken from ColonialCenter.net and GamecocksOnline.com

— Compiled by Assistant News Editor Kara Apel

PIC OF THE DAY



Keri Goff / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Leaves fall all around a spiral staircase outside a residence in Columbia. The leaves are just one of the many signs that Autumn is here despite the summertime weather.

Local

NORTH CHARLESTON

— Attorney General Henry McMaster predicted future water wars in the Southeast and said Tuesday a lawsuit South Carolina brought against North Carolina will set a precedent for settling the disputes.

“This is the kind of thing we’re going to be seeing from now on,” McMaster told about 300 people at the South Carolina Water Resources Conference. “It won’t be long before Atlanta tries to build a pipeline to the Savannah River.”

Much of the drought-stricken Southeast has been wrangling over water. Tennessee and South Carolina worry Atlanta may look to the nearby Tennessee or Savannah rivers for relief. Meanwhile, Georgia, Alabama and Florida have fought over how much water can be stored in north Georgia lakes.

McMaster sued North Carolina last year after the state decided to allow 10 million gallons of water a day be diverted from the Catawba River, which flows into South Carolina.

“North Carolina simply can’t do that to us,” McMaster said. “A river flowing through one state into another state doesn’t belong to the upstream state only.”

He said the suit is rare because the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to directly take up the issue.

National

LUCASVILLE, Ohio —

Ohio executed a 5-foot-7, 267-pound double murderer Tuesday who argued his obesity made death by lethal injection inhumane.

Richard Cooley, 41, had argued in numerous legal challenges that his weight problem would make it difficult for prison staff to find suitable veins to deliver the deadly chemicals, a problem that delayed previous executions in the state.

There were no such difficulties, said Larry Greene, a spokesman for the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility.

During preparations, though, Cooley shouted for one of his attorneys as prison staff tried to insert a shunt in his left arm. He was worried the staff would botch the execution, said Greg Meyers, an attorney with the Ohio Public Defender’s Office.

Cooley, who killed two University of Akron students in 1986, walked into the death chamber wearing gray pants and a black short-sleeve shirt and was strapped onto the gurney.

“For what? You (expletive) haven’t paid any attention to anything I’ve said in the last 22 1/2 years, why would anyone pay any attention to anything I’ve had to say now,” Cooley said looking at the ceiling. He made no other comment.

Cooley tapped the fingers of his left hand several times before he died and his face took on a purple shade.

World

OTTAWA — Prime Minister Stephen Harper, the first major world leader to face election since the global financial meltdown, appeared poised to keep his job Tuesday as Canadians voted in a national ballot amid a rebound in the country’s stock market and currency.

But the Conservative Party leader was expected to fall short of winning the parliamentary majority he sought by calling early elections. That would force him to continue relying on the opposition to pass legislation, as he has since first winning power in 2006.

The opposition Liberals have traditionally been the party in power, forming the government for most of Canada’s 141 years. But the left-of-center vote was divided among four parties, giving an edge to the Conservative Party.

Results were not expected until the last polls closed in British Columbia at 10 p.m. EDT.

“I think the absolute best result for Harper is a stalemate,” said Robert Bothwell, director of the international relations program at the University of Toronto. He expected Harper to hold on to power but predicted the leader wouldn’t win a majority or be able to implement his agenda.

The party winning the most seats generally forms the government, with its leader becoming prime minister.

— *The Associated Press*

Crime Report

MONDAY, OCT. 13

Third degree burglary, petit larceny, 5:09 p.m.

Gambrell Hall, 817 Henderson St. A member of USC faculty said that a computer and monitor from the USC Arts and Sciences Computing Center (room 151) were missing. The complainant said that the room is usually left unlocked. Due to the extended time frame and multiple people in and out of the room, no forensic evidence was found.

Total value: \$500
Reporting officer: J. Woodfin

Financial transaction card theft, petit larceny, 2:28 p.m.

Bull Street Parking Lot, 611 Bull St. Complainant said that she could not

remember if she left her wallet on top of her vehicle, inside her vehicle or on the ground. The missing items include a brown wallet, a Provident Community Bank debit card and \$10 in currency.

Total value: \$35
Reporting officer: C. Taylor

Third degree burglary, grand larceny, 2:02 p.m.

Humanities Classroom Building, 1614 College St.

Complainant said that she left her laptop in room 404 and it was missing when she returned. The laptop is a Sony Vaio.

Total Value: \$2400
Reporting officer: C. Taylor

— Compiled by Halley Nani

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extreme makeover.

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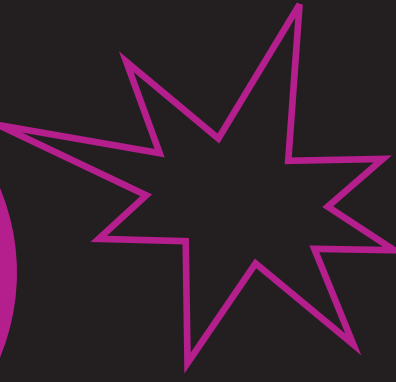
Do You Live Off Campus?



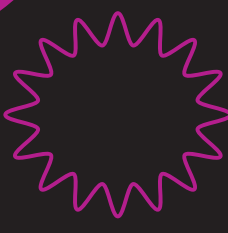

Let us know what you think.




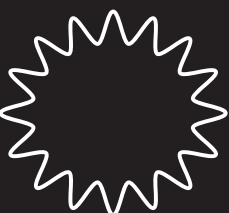


Off-Campus Student Services is launching a survey to find out what services & programs should be offered to students that live off campus. The results of the survey will be used to better serve off campus students. Survey must be completed by November 7.



Students will receive an e-mail today with a link to the survey.



This is your chance to have a say in what services you would like to see on campus.



Complete the survey by November 7 for a chance to win a \$50 gift card to the USC Bookstore!

If you do not receive an e-mail, please contact: saocss@mailbox.sc.edu



GOVERNOR • Continued from 1

Sara Crosby, a first-year business student, came to support Republican Presidential Candidate John McCain.

“I came out because I am a very big supporter of McCain and I wanted to help out his campaign,” Crosby said. “The youth is going to have a big impact on the campaign and I want to contribute to that.”

Others, like first-year business student Joe Wright, wanted to hear what Sanford had to say on current political issues.

“I wanted to hear his thoughts on the economic crisis and other political issues,” Wright said. “I want to hear what he thinks need to be done.”

Young Republicans Co-Chairman Alex Stroman said he was happy with attendance.

“I was surprised that 70-80 people were here, and I think that’s great,” Stroman said. “There’s a lot of other things going on, including sorority and fraternity functions and schoolwork during the week.”

Ultimately, Sanford hopes students will take the initiative in this election.

“If you believe it, it will be so,” Sanford said. “You can’t afford to sit out this election, and you aren’t limited by your youth.”

Students interested in Gamecocks for McCain can go to their Facebook page, and those interested in the College Republicans can e-mail collegerepublicansusc@gmail.com for more information.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@sc.edu

RHA • Continued from 1

planning volleyball, flag football and ultimate frisbee tournaments between different floors of the dorm. Durrett said the dorm is also working with Relay for Life and a canned food drive.

Sims College — as part of the RHA’s new emphasis on sustainability — will be hosting a bring-your-own-bowl ice cream social. In an effort to increase the importance of sustainability in residence halls, RHA appointed “Eco-reps” in

each hall, along with Chief Officer of Sustainability Tegan Plock.

“We decided this summer that one of our big issues this year would be sustainability,” Emery said.

RHA is also a sponsor of next week’s Sustainability Week. The senate will have a table and will exchange plastic bags for reusable shopping bags Wednesday. Senators will also exchange ordinary light bulbs for more energy efficient ones.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@sc.edu

DEATH • Continued from 1

service today for DeLoach at 3:30 p.m. in the Rutledge Chapel.

“The chapel fits about 200 people I believe, so everyone is welcome to come,” he said.

DeLoach’s visitation was held Saturday in Beaufort, and his funeral was held on Sunday according to Sigma Alpha Epsilon’s Web site.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@sc.edu

ECONOMY • Continued from 1

shrinking families’ college savings, and some parents wonder whether they will be able to afford tuition at the schools their youngsters are looking at.

Around the country, students deciding where to apply may have to scale back their dreams. Some private schools worry they could lose business to public universities. Already, federal loan applications are up, and some schools are seeing more aid inquiries.

Most students won’t decide on their college plans for six months. But a recent survey of 2,500 users of the Web site meritaid.com found 57 percent of students were considering a less prestigious school for money reasons. In a similar study by Applywise.com and Next Step Magazine this week, 50 percent of families reported limiting their children’s college choices to less expensive options.

Because of plummeting housing prices, many families can no longer count on the equity in their homes to help them pay for tuition. Meanwhile, 529 college savings plans

have been hit hard in the stock market. A year ago, they held a combined \$110 billion. Preliminary figures from Financial Research Corp. show the value of 529s declined 9 percent last quarter even with new money coming in — and that was before last week’s slump on Wall Street.

“We’re revisiting their overall financial plans,” said Ivan Nalibotsky of Capital Solutions Group, a college financial planning service in Bethesda, Md. “In many cases folks are going to have to be dipping into some of their own personal resources, and reevaluating their personal retirement goals in order to get the kids the four or five years of education they planned.”

One of his clients now plans to start at a community college and transfer to the University of Maryland rather than going straight to a four-year private college.

Some parents are hoping to secure financial aid, something they previously assumed they didn’t need or couldn’t get.

“We haven’t qualified before. We might now,” said Betty Morris of West Chester, Pa., who was

touring Elon this week with her son Jack.

The good news for such families is that the college financial aid system is in many ways tilted toward higher-income families, thanks to tuition tax breaks and financial aid that is based on merit, not need. At Elon, for instance, about 40 percent of the 5,000 students get merit aid.

When it comes to need-based aid, many middle-income families underestimate their chances and focus too much on the “list price.” A large number of schools have substantially expanded aid in the past few years. At many highly competitive colleges, families earning \$80,000 typically pay no more than half price.

A few prestigious schools that cost \$50,000 or more a year have made more aid available to families earning well into six figures. At Princeton, for instance, virtually all families earning as much as \$200,000 qualify for grants covering half of tuition or more.

O’Connell’s mother, Rosemary O’Connell, an executive assistant at a financial firm, said: “We’ll do what we can for her. We

don’t want her to graduate \$200,000 in debt.”

Parents’ college savings funds are taking a hit at the same time many schools’ endowments are being eroded by the downturn in the stock market. Colleges rely on their endowments for financial aid.

“It won’t be an impossible problem for Harvard, Pomona, Princeton, but a lot of other colleges will find it hard to provide the same level of aid as in the past,” said Robert Shireman of the California-based Institute for College Access and Success.

Ultimately, many parents will simply stretch and borrow. Higher education is so important to many families, it often doesn’t obey the laws of supply and demand.

“They always said, ‘You pick the school, we’ll figure out the money,’” Emily Schroeder of Baltimore, who is applying to Elon this year, said of her parents. Her mother, Judy, said price is a consideration but not the biggest one.

“It’s her future and I want her to be happy and I want the fit to be right,” she said. “If it costs a little more money, that’s OK.”

ALCOHOL • Continued from 1

from alcohol each year,” Wilkinson said. “We’re trying to fight the deaths and injuries, along with the academic problems, that are caused by alcohol.”

By forcing students to take the course, Wilkinson said the university hopes to show students the negative effects of alcohol on the body and how it affects poor decision making. Over the past few years, USC students have died from alcohol-related incidents, including the tragic Ocean Isle Beach fire. According to medical examiners, six of the seven students’ blood alcohol concentrations were well above the legal limit and alcohol was listed as a “contributing factor” in at least one of the deaths.

“We just want our students to use good judgment,” Wilkinson said. “They should take this seriously.”

The number of students that haven’t taken the course isn’t worrying Wilkinson. He said that while he’s received

a few complaints, most students have been cordial and understanding.

“Some people do things early and others wait until later to do things,” he said. “Some of our students have full-time and part-time jobs as well.”


Once the course is completed, the hold on university records is typically removed within 24 hours, Wilkinson said. So far, he said the program is working.

“It’s really too soon to see statistics,” Wilkinson said. “But I think our students have more general knowledge about alcohol.”

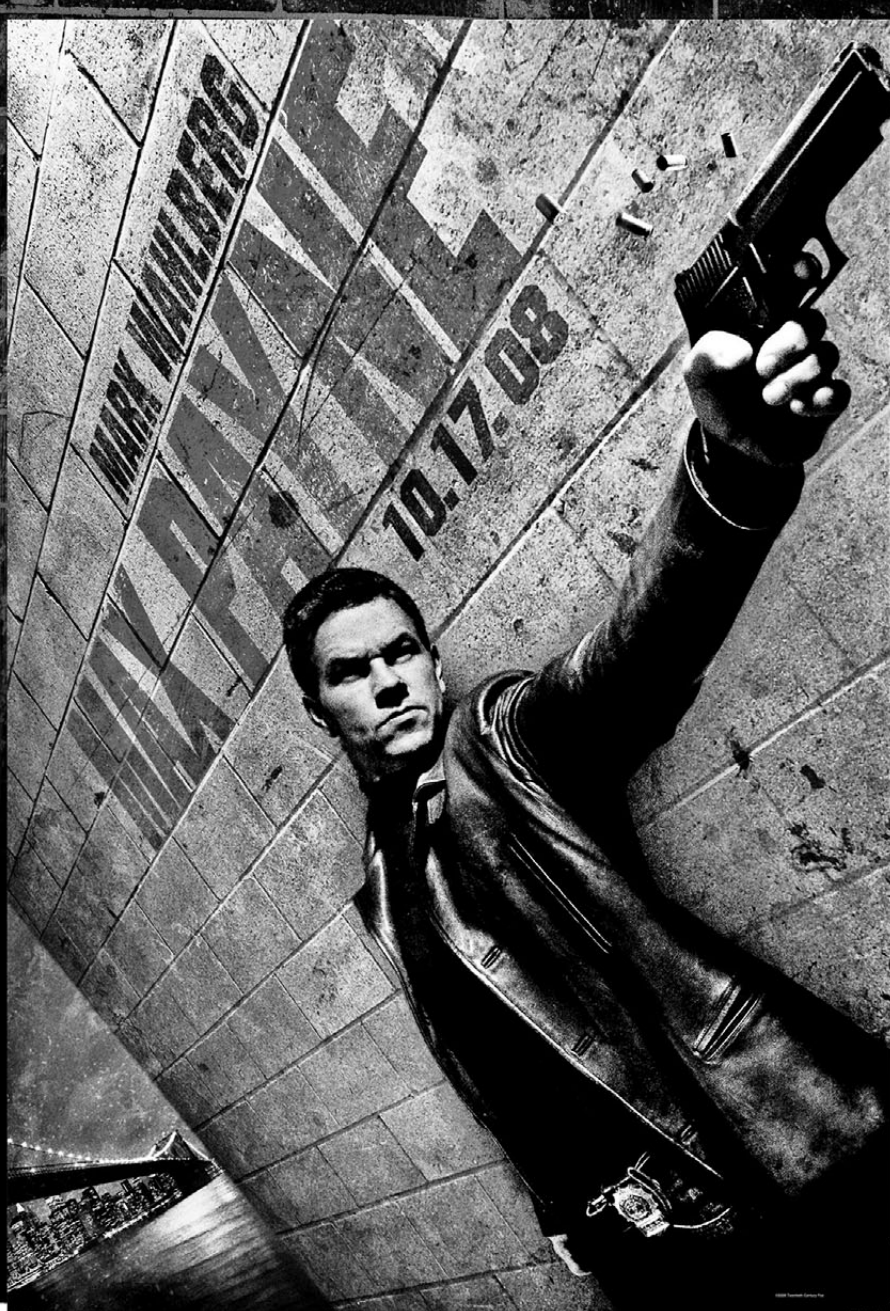
Lauren Dolan, a first-year elementary education student, said the program wasn’t a waste of time.

“I learned a little bit that I didn’t know by completing the course,” Dolan said. “But it was just too extensive.”

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@sc.edu



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Dan Steinberg / The Associated Press

Residents flee their homes Monday during a fast-moving, brush fire outside Los Angeles.

Erratic winds ignite two Los Angeles wildfires, causing at least two deaths

High traffic, destroyed homes result from fires

Shaya Tayefe Mohajer
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Two huge wildfires driven by strong Santa Ana winds burned into neighborhoods near Los Angeles on Monday, forcing frantic evacuations on smoke- and traffic-choked highways, destroying homes and causing at least two deaths.

Around sunset, residents were warned to stay on alert during the night and winds more than 60 mph were forecast. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a state of emergency in Los Angeles and Ventura counties.

More than 1,000 firefighters and nine water-dropping aircraft battled the 4,700-acre Marek Fire

at the northeast end of the San Fernando Valley, and the 5,000-acre Sesnon Fire at the west end.

Winds blew up to 45 mph with gusts reaching 70 mph at midday. They were forecast to diminish in the evening before roaring over 60 mph after 11 p.m.

Residents downwind were warned to remain alert into the night. “It can go from here to the ocean in a matter of two to three hours,” said Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky.

Authorities confirmed more than three-dozen mobile homes burned at the Marek Fire, and 19 structures — some of them homes — were either damaged or destroyed by the Sesnon Fire. Commercial sites burned in both fires.

“It is a blowtorch we can’t get in front of,” said Los Angeles County fire Inspector Frank Garrido.

Fire officials alerted other communities to the west in the Ventura County city of Simi Valley and south to Malibu, 20 miles away, as an ominous plume streamed over neighborhoods and far out to sea.

Residents were not allowed to drive into one of Porter Ranch’s gated communities because officials wanted to keep roads clear for emergency vehicles. Instead they parked their cars, ran to their homes and carried out whatever they could carry in pillow cases, in their arms, sacks and suitcases. Some ran out clutching paintings.

Los Angeles County Fire Chief P. Michael Freeman warned people not to stay home after evacuation orders had been given. “You may not be able to even outrun this fire,” he said.

A man was killed in four-vehicle crash on the nearby 118 Freeway.

Appeals court reconsiders landmark tobacco judgement

Judges doubt case accusing cigarette companies of false labeling

Hope Yen
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal appeals court appeared skeptical Tuesday that a landmark tobacco judgment could be supported under racketeering laws, questioning whether cigarette makers had conspired to hide the dangers of smoking and would continue deceiving the public.

During the three-hour oral argument, all three judges on the appeals panel queried whether the 2006 ruling by U.S. District Judge Gladys Kessler had fully laid out the evidence showing a group conspiracy as required under RICO, a law designed to combat mobsters and other organized criminals.

On several occasions, government attorneys seeking to convince the Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit to sign off on billions in financial penalties against the industry allowed that Kessler’s 1,653-page ruling might not have spelled out the racketeering violations, or the remedies, as clearly as it should.

“We’re asking the judge’s order be enforced based on what the court meant,” Justice Department lawyer Mark Stern said at one point. He spoke after attorneys for the tobacco industry criticized Kessler’s ruling as “cobbling” together statements by cigarette makers that failed to “connect the dots” showing fraud.

“So you want us to enforce the decree not based on what it says but what it ‘meant,’” responded a bemused Judge David S. Tatel, a Clinton appointee who has sided with the government in tobacco cases.

Chief Judge David B. Sentelle, a Reagan appointee, was critical of Kessler’s finding that the tobacco industry had committed fraud by describing cigarettes as “light,” “mild,” or “low tar” and by suggesting they were safer than regular cigarettes.

Studies show such cigarettes are not safer because smokers tend to puff harder. Still, cigarette makers were simply following a Federal Trade Commission rule that allowed them to make factual statements about tar and nicotine content based on a specialized test, he said.

“They are basically making factually correct statements,” Sentelle said.

Tatel noted that the Supreme Court was reviewing a separate tobacco case that also asks whether advertising of “light” cigarettes might be considered fraud in light of the FTC rule. He suggested the appeals court might want to wait for that decision before acting on at least portions of the current appeal.

The appeal could have wide implications for the tobacco industry, which is facing dozens of lawsuits around the country. A decision to uphold Kessler’s landmark judgment could give plaintiffs fresh ammunition and spur new lawsuits by smokers and ex-smokers claiming they were fooled by deceptive marketing.

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Advising Information for Spring 2009



Who: All History majors

When: October 20th - November 10th

Where: Your advisor's office
(You can find this info on VIP under academics - registration - advisor)

How: Sign up on your advisor's door

Why: You MUST be advised and cleared by your advisor in order to register for Spring '09 classes.

*Your advisement appointment time is different than your registration appointment time listed on VIP. Questions? Visit Gambrell 248a for help.

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Obama not so different despite what he professes

Clever campaigning keeps hypocrisy obscured from spotlight, deceives voters

One party is trying to paint a very clear picture of this election. Barack Obama is a fresh face in politics, eager to rescue the American people from the disastrous policies



PEYTON MCCULLOUGH
First-year political science student

of a horrible president. He's a new kind of politician, and he stands above politics as usual — the bait and switch tactics, the nasty smear attacks and so forth. He's ready to bring change to politics.

Or maybe he's more of the same, only in a politically advantageous disguise.

Take public financing, for example. Last year, Obama boasted of his support of public financing legislation in both the Illinois State Senate and the U.S. Senate, and he proposed a "fundraising truce" between the two major parties' candidates in the general election. He called himself a "long-time advocate for public financing" and promised to "aggressively pursue an agreement with the Republican nominee to preserve a publicly financed general election."

But then, shortly after securing the Democratic nomination, Obama announced that he would be financing his general election campaign with private money. Such a move is unfortunate. Obama saw a political opportunity in the form of unlimited spending, and he had no problem backtracking on his earlier pledge.

Equally deplorable is that, in order to cover for himself, Obama misled voters, claiming that he needed more money to fight John McCain and the Republican National Committee, who, as he said, were "fueled" by PACs and lobbyists. In reality, however, contributions from PACs and lobbyists account for less than 2 percent of receipts for both McCain and the RNC.

Obama's efforts to distort and mislead are not limited to public financing. Obama recently released an ad attacking McCain's past support for Bush's plan to partially privatize Social Security. The narrator asks what would happen if retirement benefits had been invested in AIG, Lehman Brothers and Merrill Lynch.

Obama's claim here, however, is false. Bush's plan would have created a system wherein a worker could voluntarily put a small portion of his Social Security taxes into a private account. Several investment options would be available, but even the most risky stock fund would be "broadly diversified," according to the White House.

Sadly, one has to expect a certain level of deception from office-seekers. But Obama's crime is that he engages in the very sort of tactics that he passionately condemns. Indeed, he has formed his entire campaign around opposition to "more of the same." Make no mistake, though: Obama plays the same game — only his version comes in a deceptively pretty package.



STAYIN' ALIVE

Policy causes discrimination

Immigration laws create work environment that scrutinizes U.S. Hispanics

Imagine yourself in a new country where people speak a language unfamiliar to you. Away from your family, friends and everything you know.

This is something that many immigrants to the United States experience every day. The struggles they face are much more extreme than any challenges a U.S. student studying abroad ever would. Many that come to this country, especially those of the Latino/



RACHEL WRIGHT
Third-year English student

Hispanic population, face many stereotypes that are almost impossible to overcome. On top of that, we don't exactly make them feel welcome.

Many states across the country have passed laws to prevent undocumented aliens from finding employment or seeking higher education. South Carolina is one of these states. In June, Gov. Mark Sanford signed a bill that gives the Palmetto

State some of the toughest immigration laws. The bill requires employers to verify employees through the Department of Homeland Security or with a South Carolina driver's license. If business owners fail to do this they can face heavy fines or even lose their business license.

However, the law not only impacts illegal immigrants, but it also affects those that are in our country legally. Because of this recent law, many documented aliens are facing increased discrimination. The bill has several gray areas, leaving many employers wondering what they can or cannot do to adequately document someone. Therefore, employers often end up asking for more proof of documentation than is actually needed. In the end, those who are documented end up feeling the prejudice they have worked to break free of by coming into the country legally.

Recently, a state senator insisted that the Department of Transportation audit a contractor because many constituents complained that the company only employed Hispanic workers. Just because a company hires several immigrants to work for them does not

mean that we should assume that these immigrants are undocumented. Immigrants are people just like us. They have talents and trades to bring to the table as well. Some progressive businessmen and women are able to look past the stereotypes that so many of us have and hire immigrants in order to bring new abilities to the work force and improve their businesses.

With stricter laws in place, people concerned with illegal immigration can rest assured that there will be a decline in undocumented aliens in South Carolina. Incidents such as the contractor audit are unnecessary and show prejudice to those who have followed the law. We should let this law handle itself. These strict laws will yield results, but these results should not include discrimination against either documented or undocumented aliens.

There are several ways to obey the law without showing prejudice to our brothers and sisters of the human race. We can help break the cycle of injustice and show ourselves as a progressive population by supporting and being tolerant of immigrants.

Beware Obama's relationships

Voters should consider whom candidates keep ties to, take advice from

In the next few weeks we will decide who will be the next commander in chief of the United States. In uncertain times like these we need a president with good judgment. One way we can see a candidate's good judgment is the company he keeps, making Barack Obama perhaps the most risky choice ever for president.



DAVID HUGHES
Fourth-year marketing student

For 20 years, Obama sat in the pews of Trinity United Church of Christ — a radical church that adopted a theology called Black Liberation Theology. Obama called the pastor of Trinity, Jeremiah Wright, his spiritual mentor. This was the man who presided over Obama's wedding, baptized his two daughters and was the inspiration for Obama's second book "The Audacity of Hope."

Around March, videotapes of Pastor Wright's more controversial sermons came to light. Sermons where Pastor Wright was quoted as calling this great country the "U.S. of KKK A." I encourage readers to go onto Youtube and type in Jeremiah Wright and watch some of these radical sermons. The sad thing is that when the controversy broke, Obama gave his now famous "A More Perfect Union Speech" where he said, "I can no more disown him [Reverend Wright] than I can disown the black community."

Then weeks later, when it became politically expedient for his campaign, he decided to dump Wright and recall his membership to the church. He said, "This isn't the man I knew for 20 years." Well either Senator Obama was asleep a lot in church or he showed poor judgment by being a member of Trinity.

One bad association isn't enough to write a candidate off. But wait — let's take a trip back to the early 90s when Obama kicked off his political career with a fundraiser in the living

room of William Ayers. In the 70s, Ayers was the leader of an Anti-War terrorist group that bombed the Pentagon and the Capitol building to show their dislike for the War in Vietnam. Obama's relationship with this former terrorist goes way beyond a simple fundraiser; it goes much deeper.

Sen. Obama sat on two boards with Ayers, the Chicago Annenberg Challenge and the Woods Fund. Both groups gave money to far left educational groups and pushed radical ideas onto schools in the Chicago area. Once again, when the relationship with Ayers started to become a political liability to Obama, he disclaimed friendship with Ayers, saying, "He is just a guy who lives in my neighborhood."

As a child, I was always taught that you are judged by the company you keep. If this saying holds true, there is no way we should elect Obama. I urge you to research on your own all of these associations I have raised. Can you really trust a president who chooses to call these people his friends?

The Daily Gamecock

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IN OUR OPINION

MyStudentBody can't hurt, could save lives

A little education never killed anybody — but it might cause a few absent-minded freshmen to get stuck with an 8 a.m. Friday class.

It cannot be denied that binge drinking is a serious issue on college campuses, and taking an objective, hard look at USC paints no different a picture. Unfortunately, almost everyone has a friend who has had a dangerously close encounter with alcohol, and it doesn't take a game against LSU to bring out the environment that fosters drinking to excess. This is college, after all.

Even if many students simply blow this off, reaching even a few will be a success.

But the fact that we are college students doesn't excuse irresponsible behavior, and the university has the right idea with the MyStudentBody initiative. Let's be frank — for most of us, there will be some imbibing in our college years. But for none of us should it end in the hospital or behind the wheel of a car.

Critics might question the value of the program, but it can't hurt. Is a life not worth a one-hour investment? Even if many students simply blow this off, reaching even a few will be a success.

New students under the age 23 are required to take the online MyStudentBody course, and a hold will be placed on their registration should they not complete it. While it's important to get this message out there, coercion through registration may not be the best way. Isn't this the sort of thing that should be administered before students come to campus?

Hopefully the kinks will be worked out, and a more effective method of delivery will be implemented. It seems a little heavy handed to lock students out of their education — even if it is their fault — over a one-hour online course. But this is a first, and it's a step in the right direction.

CORRECTIONS

If you see an error in today's paper, we want to know about it. E-mail us at sagckvew@mailbox.sc.edu

IT'S YOUR RIGHT

Voice your opinion on message boards at www.dailygamecock.com or send letters to the editor at sagckvew@mailbox.sc.edu

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CONTACT INFORMATION
Offices located on the third floor of the Russell House
Editor: gamecockeditor@sc.edu
News: sagcknew@mailbox.sc.edu
Viewpoints: sagckvew@mailbox.sc.edu
The Mix: sagckmix@mailbox.sc.edu
Sports: sagckspi@mailbox.sc.edu
Public Relations: gamecockpr@sc.edu
Online: www.dailygamecock.com
Newsroom: 777-7726
Sports: 777-7182
Editor's Office: 777-3914
Fax: 777-6482

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“Man, you don’t know how I felt that afternoon when I heard that voice and it was my own voice.”
— Muddy Water

Slater aims for comeback in thriller

Split personalities offer fresh approach to often cliched espionage genre

Jimmy Gilmore
STAFF WRITER

“My Own Worst Enemy”
★★★ out of ☆☆☆☆☆

Starring Christian Slater
Genre: Action Thriller Drama
Creator: Jason Smilovic
See It: NBC Mondays 10 p.m.

It’s Christian Slater vs. Christian Slater in NBC’s new action thriller, “My Own Worst Enemy.” Slater plays both Henry Spivey, a typical middle-class suburbanite, and Edward Albright, a trained spy who happens to be Henry’s alter ego.

Though the show’s premise may seem both confusing and ludicrous, the most surprising thing about “Enemy” is how good the pilot actually is, solidly laying the groundwork for a potentially invigorating season.

Christian Slater, who’s been desperately in search of a comeback for years, grabs onto his characters’ possibilities and tries to find the right level of balance between the two. Instead of intense differences between his “Dr. Jekyll” and his “Mr. Hyde,” Slater manages to tone the characters down.

His subtle characterizations are distinguishable enough to recognize which ego he inhabits, capitalizing on a wry cackle that makes Edward come off as



Courtesy of MCT Campus

Christian Slater portrays the split personalities of a suburbanite-spy in an NBC thriller series.

a kind of amused weasel, but the show is based on how these two personalities overlap and come into conflict.

Slater has a harder time making Henry anything less than boring, and it’s obvious he has a much better time acting up as Edward.

Edward and Henry are controlled by a kind of super computer that flips a switch to activate or deactivate them at whim. When Henry wakes up in the middle of a field operation he gradually becomes aware

of his other half, and the two inevitably work together through writing and taping videos to each other.

It all sounds rather complex and farfetched, and the show does require a significant percent of disbelief. Creator Jason Smilovic, who penned the pilot’s script, doesn’t try to explain himself. Rather, he jumps right in, setting up his characters and moving right into the action.

The pilot is extremely well-paced. Even

when stopping for obligatory exposition to help explain the situations and advance the acts, it all feels remarkably brisk and fresh despite all the somewhat typical espionage thrills going on.

The main draw to the show is Slater as the rest is all fairly standard. Though it features some competent if conventional performances from the supporting cast and some surprisingly well executed action sequences within only the first hour, it would be in danger of feeling tiresome if it weren’t for the way the creators and star thrust themselves at the premise without hesitation.

There is certainly a wealth of potential in “My Own Worst Enemy.” As with any television show, time — and more episodes — will be the only real indicator of its success.

If the show manages to be creative about its premise and to develop both a conflicting relationship between Slater and himself over the next scheduled 13 episodes, “Enemy” could hold plenty of spy thrills.

It’s some kind of Jason Bourne with an existentialist twist. The show relies heavily — and wisely — on thriller conventions to make its audience comfortable as it navigates the increasingly chaotic and potentially confusing relationship between Henry and Edward.

“My Own Worst Enemy” deserves to be a show to keep an eye on. It could either explode as a great gem for NBC, or fall back too heavily on convention and become tiresome and boring after only a few episodes.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockfeatures@sc.edu



Special to THE DAILY GAMECOCK

A new 80-story skyscraper in Dubai will feature rotating floors offering 360-degree view of the city. These floors will be constructed in Italy and shipped to Dubai.

You Tube CLIP OF THE WEEK

http://www.youtube.com/watch?the=urRT7s_E21&feature=relates

Dubai affirms itself as modern city with 80-story rotating skyscraper; construction slated to finish by 2010

Robert Johnson
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Countries from all over the world seem to be building bold new structures in recent times. This year, Olympic spectators witnessed China’s display with the “Bird’s Nest” stadium in Beijing and the extraordinary show that came with it. Of course, we Americans also spent a considerable amount of time watching Michael Phelps swim back and forth in Beijing’s enormous swimming pools. However, Dubai might be the site of the architectural world’s next colossal achievement with the world’s first moving skyscraper. That’s right, it moves continuously.

The 80-story apartment building will be designed to revolve slowly to give a 360-degree view of the Persian Gulf. Each floor is prefabricated separately in Italy and will revolve independently of the others as well. Once the parts are assembled they will be shipped to Dubai for the

final construction phase. This involves positioning each of the floor components to the rest of the building. David Fisher, the Italian architect in charge of the project, hopes the building will be ready by the year 2010. If the design is successful, Fisher also hopes to create other revolving buildings in other locations around the world. There are also plans to have the structure powered by wind turbines, and Fisher’s company is confident the turbines will generate more than enough electricity for the whole building.

“It’s not a piece of architecture someone designed today and that’s it,” Fisher said. “It is designed by life, and shaped by time.”

This is only the second of Dubai’s bold new buildings. The Burj Dubai tower is currently under construction, and when complete, will be the largest skyscraper in the world. Whether or not the recent economic troubles will hinder the construction remains to be seen. If not, the structure may dramatically influence the way people live in large urban cities in the future.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockfeatures@sc.edu

90.5 WUSC FM's Top 30

- 1 RA RA RIOT The Rhumb Line Barsuk
- 2 TV ON THE RADIO Dear Science Interscope
- 3 COLD WAR KIDS Loyalty To Loyalty Downtown
- 4 BLITZEN TRAPPER Furr SUB POP
- 5 UPSIDEDOWN Human Destination Beat The World
- 6 UH HUH HER Common Reaction Nettwerk
- 7 BRAZILIAN GIRLS New York City Verve Forecast
- 8 SUBMARINES Honeysuckle Weeks Nettwerk
- 9 POLYSICS We Ate The Machine MySpace
- 10 SING IT LOUD Come Around Epitaph
- 11 DEERHOOF Offend Maggie Kill Rock Stars
- 12 AIDS WOLF Cities Of Glass Skin Graft
- 13 OLD CROW MEDICINE SHOW Tennessee Pusher Nettwerk
- 14 LEE “SCRATCH” PERRY Repentance Narnack
- 15 DUNGEN 4 Kemado
- 16 ROSEBUDS Life Like Merge
- 17 THE FAINT Fasciination Blank.wav
- 18 NOAH AND THE WHALE Peaceful, The World Lays Me Down Cherry Tree-Interscope
- 19 VALENCIA We All Need A Reason To Believe Columbia
- 20 FIREWATER The Golden Hour Bloodshot
- 21 JAPANESE MOTORS Japanese Motors Vice
- 22 WALKMEN You And Me Gigantic
- 23 PORTASTATIC Some Small History Merge
- 24 THE COAST Expatriate Aporia
- 25 REPLACEMENTS Radio Sampler Rhino
- 26 STILLS Oceans Will Rise Arts And Crafts
- 27 WHITE TIE AFFAIR Walk This Way Epic
- 28 DEATH VESSEL Nothing Is Precious Enough For Us SUB POP
- 29 MV AND EE WITH THE GOLDEN ROAD Astral Bleachers/Big Moment
- 30 JEREMY MESSERSMITH The Silver City Princess

RITCHIE SHARES DIRT ON FILM ‘ROCKNROLLA’

Director discusses production of film, reception in festival

John Anderson
MCT CAMPUS

TORONTO — Probably better known as Madonna’s husband than as a director of high-style, high-attitude comic-book-type thrillers (“Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels”), Guy Ritchie recently took the Toronto Film Festival by storm: “RocknRolla,” his latest Brit gangster saga starring Gerard Butler, Thandie Newton and Tom Wilkinson, seemed to be everything the crowd wanted, and more.

After an evening of bellowing, “Yes! I love Madonna,” at paparazzi curious about his reportedly

troubled marriage, Ritchie took a few minutes to sit with John Anderson in Toronto and actually talk about his film.

Q. Could you have gotten a better reception than you did last night?

A. The crowd in London was great, but when we came here it was a different class. I felt they wanted to enjoy it from the start, a very warm environment. Just felt right, didn’t it? Can’t play any better than that.

Q. Can you credit some of the reaction to the Gerard Butler cult? I even saw middle-aged women going positively bonkers.

A. Possibly. I didn’t really know there was a whole Gerry Butler cult. Why is that? Because he’s like a guy’s guy? Or a woman’s guy? I don’t know. I am

aware that he had a rather impressive set of abs in “300.”

Q. Did you have him in mind, or anyone of your cast, when you were prepping the film?

A. Yes and no. Some of the people I had talked about. It’s an organic process: You see the TV series, the movies, you make a subconscious mental note of actors you find inspiring, and gradually they come to the forefront of your mind at the appropriate time. I guess that’s how the casting process really works.

Q. Tom Wilkinson, as the mob chief, seems to be channeling Bob Hoskins, but he also seems to be having fun.

A. He was tremendously professional, he turned up, did his thing, pushed off,

Q&A • Continued from 7

I'm not sure he really knew what he was getting into. He was pushed on time, and it was hard for us to get the timing right. But he was the guy I really wanted.

Q. It seems obvious, but how important is place to you?

A. Tremendously. I reckon I'll do as good a job as I can making a place interesting even if it isn't, but London is. It's sort of been the capital of the world to a degree for 600 years, and that's not really changing. Every now and then it turns its crown over to another city for a while, but generally takes it back.

Q. It's cyclical?

A. It's interesting how cyclical it is. I can't think of any other city that's held the crown as long as London has in terms of global power. I know New York has stolen the title for awhile by default of being in America. They say New York is the center of the Western world and London is the center of the rest of the world.

Q. Is technique always going to be what people talk about when they talk about you?

A. Probably. It's really about entertainment. "RocknRolla" is almost a caricature, it's almost an animated world. It's really about how I see life editorialized into an



Guy Ritchie, pictured with wife Madonna, finds his new film "RocknRolla" well received at Toronto Film Festival.

entertaining selection of choice cuts. If I go to the cinema, it's exactly the sort of thing I want to see.

Q. What's your philosophy of film violence?

A. It would be hard for me to completely intellectualize the choices that I make. It's just the way I'm sort of creatively bent. I mean, I'm making a reflection of a tough world, but it's not to be taken too seriously, right? I like the idea that sometimes you play it straight and then you don't.

It's fertile ground for exploring as a director.

Q. One character gets beaten with a golf club. It might have been onscreen. You portrayed it more by suggestion.

A. I could have done it onscreen, but as you probably now know, I'm neither interested in watching sex or violence necessarily on screen.

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Starr: No more fan mail

Former Beatles drummer refuses to answer letters, give autographs to public

Gregory Katz
The Associated Press

LONDON — Ringo Starr doesn't want to hear from you.

If you do write, your letter will end up in the trash.

That's the message from Richard Starkey, aka Ringo Starr. After 45 years of stardom, he doesn't want to spend any more time answering mail or sending signed photos back to fans.

The fan fatigue led the former Beatles drummer to post a sometimes angry-sounding short video clip on his Web site telling fans that any mail sent to him after Oct. 20 will not be read or answered. British television stations broadcast the video on Tuesday.

"It's going to be tossed," he says on the video. "I'm warning you with peace and love, I have too much to do. So no more fan mail. Thank you, thank you. And no objects to be signed. Nothing. Anyway, peace and love, peace and love."

The drummer and singer did not elaborate on the reason behind his decision to cut off a major point of contact with his many fans.

Starr, 68, has maintained a very active touring and recording schedule in recent years, drawing large crowds for performances with his All-Starr band.

The band plays a mix of old Beatles hits, Starr's many solo offerings, and other classics from the 1960s and 1970s. Starr



Courtesy of MCT Campus

Former Beatles drummer Ringo Starr declares that he will no longer answer letters or sign photographs for fans.

usually serves as front man, though he sometimes plays the drums.

But he has angered longtime fans in Liverpool by telling interviewers that he does not miss his native city. Vandals there beheaded a topiary sculpture of Starr earlier this year — he was the only one of the four Beatles whose likeness was desecrated.

The good-natured drummer, who also enjoyed a brief acting career after star turns in Beatles' films "A Hard Day's Night" and "Help!," guest starred on a 1991 episode of "The Simpsons" in which he is shown scrupulously answering every piece of fan mail that comes his way.

"They took the time to write to me, and I don't care if it takes 20 years, I'm going to answer every one of them," Starr says on the show.

In his mail, he finds a package from Marge Simpson that contains a portrait she painted of him back in the Beatles heyday. He puts it on his wall and writes back to tell her — a few decades late — how much he likes her painting.

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Map showing location of Woodlands of Columbia near USC campus.

Inside the Box ♦ By Marlowe Leverette / The Daily Gamecock



The Whiteboard ♦ By Bobby Sutton / The Daily Gamecock



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HOROSCOPES



ARIES There's money coming in, due to your hard work. Take care not to waste a cent. You don't even need to try to make a quick buck. That route won't work now.

TAURUS You are determined to get your own way, but that might be a challenge. You'll have to convince your adversary to come over to your side.

GEMINI The confusion is starting to clear up. This is good, because there's a job coming up. Find it and do it.

CANCER Better check your calendar to make sure you haven't scheduled two activities for the same date and time. That would be easy to do right now.

LEO No need to rush a decision, either career-related or domestic. Do more research first. New information is just now becoming available.

VIRGO You're starting to look around for new horizons to conquer. It's a little early to start. Make plans, but hold off on taking action.

LIBRA It's getting easier to communicate clearly. Your first clue may be the number of misunderstandings you get to clear up. Don't despair; you're making progress.

SCORPIO It's getting easier to communicate effectively, for you and everyone else. Strong

leadership is also beginning to emerge, thankfully.

SAGITTARIUS Get busy! The more you do, the more moolah you'll make.

CAPRICORN You're feeling a lot better because of the support you're now receiving. When others admire your work, you should as well.

AQUARIUS Slow down. Conditions have changed. Now your best course of action is to think carefully about all your possible courses of action.

PISCES Settle down and study that material you've been saving for the right time. It's here. Finally, you can concentrate.

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Tomorrow

SHAWN'S BIG LOVE RETRO DANCE NITE
8 p.m., free
Art Bar, 1211 Park St.

BUCKETHEAD, THAT ONE GUY
8 p.m., \$20
Headliners, 700 Gervais St.

AMERICAN IDOL FINALIST BLAKE LEWIS, CARLOTTA, DINO MECH
8 p.m., \$10
New Brookland Tavern, 122 State St.

Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

10/15/08

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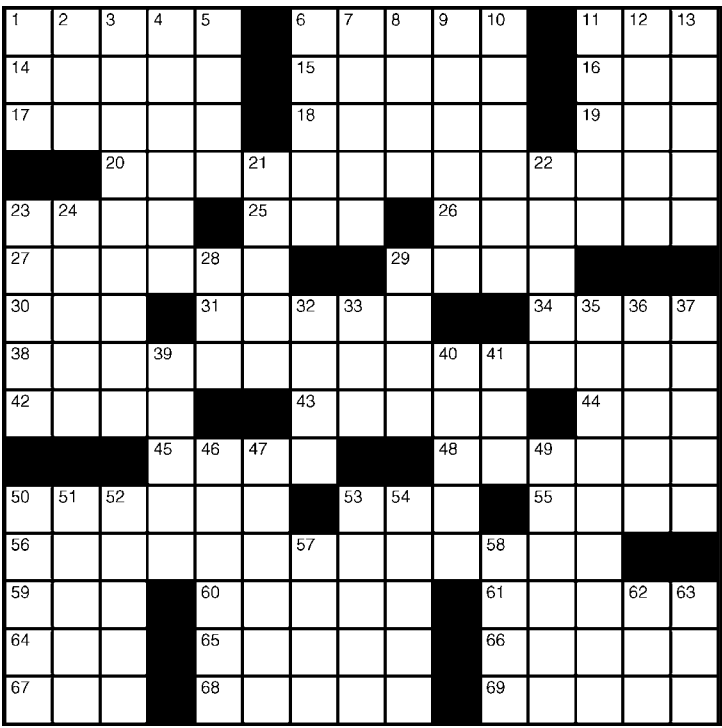
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ACROSS

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- Of hearing
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- William Tell's canton
- Head lock
- Holliman and Scruggs
- Road to Rouen
- Never say die
- Ornamental container
- ER workers
- Mescal
- Peacock "eyes"
- Kennedy and Knight
- Part of TGIF
- Muslim prince: var.
- Tobacco kiln
- Burton/Bloom film of 1958
- Coastal raptor
- Of blood
- Trellis climber
- "Painting" painter
- Tapers off
- Partly frozen drink
- Pouchlike structure
- Simpson kid
- Eavesdropper's perch
- C.I.A. forerunner
- Log home
- Cunning
- Leguminous plant
- Inorganic compound
- Old-time journalist
- Pyle
- __ Lanka



- Relinquishes
- Lawn tool

DOWN

- Light touch
- "__ Town"
- Keeps going
- Chalklike crayon
- In addition
- Marine expanse
- Blind parts
- Foot woe
- At a slant
- Took five
- Peculiar souvenir
- Main impact
- Surround-and-wait tactic
- Donna lead-in
- Green tea
- See-through fabric
- One in a cast
- Research room
- Cut back
- Call back?
- Just get by

Solutions from 10/14/08



- Shaking up
- Break off
- Assignment
- Neatly maintained
- Image Award grp.
- Priestly garb
- Emetic medication
- Give a new title to
- Laughable
- Duds
- Stairway element
- Very, in music
- Maliciously sarcastic
- "__ of God"
- Footnote abbr.
- Curved molding
- False story
- Back of a chariot?

PUZZLED about where to go for lunch?

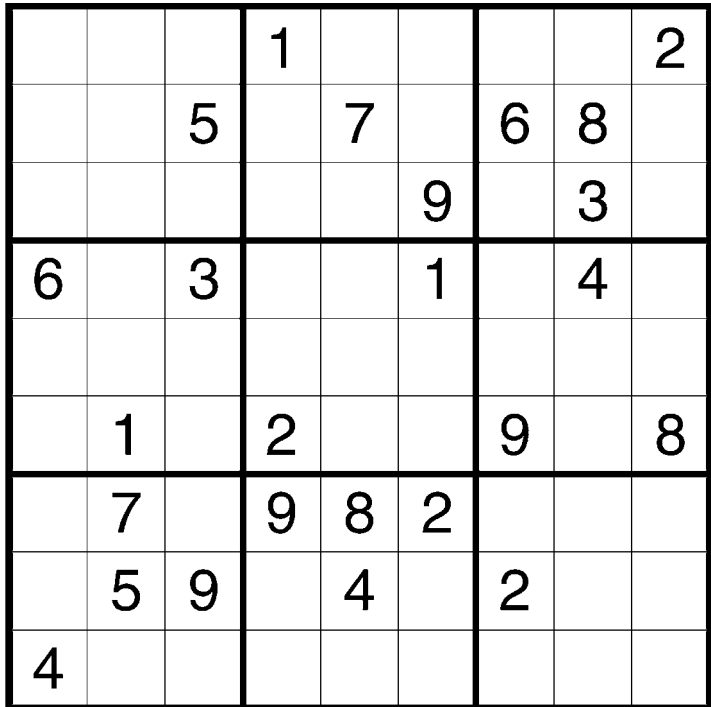
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Sudoku

By The Mephram Group

10/15/08



Level **1** 2 3 4

How to Play
Complete the grid so each row, column AND 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

Solution for 10/14/08

8	5	2	4	6	1	7	9	3
3	4	9	2	5	7	8	6	1
7	6	1	3	8	9	2	5	4
9	8	4	1	2	3	6	7	5
2	3	7	5	9	6	4	1	8
5	1	6	7	4	8	9	3	2
4	7	8	9	1	5	3	2	6
1	2	3	6	7	4	5	8	9
6	9	5	8	3	2	1	4	7

Walkotten aims high for senior year

Swimmer's last chance at national glory, coach's second time around set up exciting outlook on 2008-2009 season

Drew Lattier
STAFF WRITER

Simple logic holds that a second time through anything will most likely be better than the first time through. For USC's swimming and diving coach McGee Moody, this is his second run as head coach, and all signs point towards improvement.

Moody was hired just prior to the start of last year's swim season, leaving the coach with little time to prepare with the team for the grueling season that begins in the fall, stretches over the winter break and lasts nearly until April.

This Friday the men's and women's swim and dive teams open up their season in a home meet against a nationally ranked UNC club, and the second-year coach feels giant strides have been made with a very promising team.

"This year it's a different world, communication is a lot better," Moody said. "Having a year under our belt, it's an entirely different attitude and environment. We're going to really start to look to move forward."

As opposed to last season when the coach just had one month to prepare his team, Moody has now spent over a year with his swimmers entering the 2008-09 season.

"Mentally and physically I think we are in a much better place than we were this time last year," Moody said. "We're starting to really put together the culture and environment that we want here."

The sophomore coach has a hard-working team rich with talent, as multiple swimmers will compete on the level with the top swimmers in the country. One Carolina swimmer that will not only be able to stay with the best, but also has hopes to beat the best in the country, is senior Nicholas Walkotten.

Previously a swimmer for Indiana University in his first three years, the redshirt senior swam his first year for the Gamecocks last year. Having a banner year, Walkotten set the school record in the 200m butterfly, as well as being named an All-SEC men's swimmer; the first for Carolina since 2001.

Staying in Columbia over the summer, Walkotten pushed his training in an effort to achieve goals that will make him an integral part of the team's success.

"I stuck around here [Columbia] to train all summer, and was able to work with coach Moody. It really helped to build an overall trust between us," Walkotten said. "I want to make my NCAA cuts as soon as possible, and then try and win



Courtesy of USC Media Relations

Nicholas Walkotten has been training all summer for his senior season and he expects it to pay off with championships.

SECs as well as NCAAs is the ultimate goal."

Walkotten will be joined by fellow senior Kyle Cormier this year in the pool, another major asset to the men's team. Cormier took a year off last year to train for the Olympic Trials, a meet in which he swam an inspiring three lifetime bests, and has set himself up for what could be a great final season.

"He has set himself up for a very big senior year," Moody said. "He is one of those guys that we are going to lean on a lot."

Walkotten, who has competed both with and against his teammate Cormier, is excited about his fellow senior's return.

"I swam with Kyle before he redshirted last year," Walkotten said. "He's a tough competitor and it will be cool

“He is one of those guys that we are going to lean on a lot.”

Swim and dive coach, McGee Moody

to race against him some, as well as have him helping out on the relays."

The women's side of the pool is every bit as impressive as the men's, with veteran swimmers Amanda Dunnigan and Sharntelle McLean leading the team. McLean, a junior this year, redshirted last season to train for the Olympic Games. Representing her home country of Trinidad & Tobago, McLean finished second in her heat of the 50m freestyle. The freestyle and butterfly specialist will be a welcomed return to an already talented squad.

Thompson twins Claire and Christine will also be a valuable asset to the team, as they enter their sophomore year with ambitions to improve on their impressive swims of freshman year. Both swimmers scored multiple points in last year's SEC Conference meet and will continue to serve as members of various relay squads.

The swimming and dive teams have come a long way in just a year, and will put their months of practice in the offseason to the test when they open the year against UNC. Friday's meet starts at 4 p.m. and will take place in the Carolina Natatorium.

Comments on this story? E-mail sagckspt@mailbox.sc.edu

USC ladies look to bounce back against Florida

After tough weekend, volleyball travels to Gainesville for midweek matchup against top 10 opponent

Joke Luce
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

In the midst of an arduous SEC schedule, the women's volleyball team will have to rebound quickly from its mistakes as every week provides a unique challenge.

Before losing to Kentucky 3-0 this past Sunday afternoon, the Gamecock volleyball team had won four consecutive SEC matches, three of which were on the road.

In their loss against No. 25 Kentucky, South Carolina fought hard, losing the three sets by a combined 13 points.

"I don't think that we are doing anything that needs to be changed", South Carolina head coach Ben Somera said. "We need to keep getting better, execute the game plan and compete hard."

Redshirt senior Belita Salters once again led the Gamecocks offensive attack with 14 points off 13 kills. Three other Carolina players were major contributors as Ivana Kujundzic, Meredith Moorhead and Tory Anderson all had over seven points in Sunday's match.

With the win, the 16-3 Wildcats are now 7-1 in conference play and are behind only Florida for the top of the conference standings.

"I wouldn't put us too far behind Kentucky," Somera said. "We were right there minus two starters and if they were playing it might have been a different story."

Though Carolina suffered the loss, they still boast an impressive 14-3 record on the season and are 6-2 in conference play. The Gamecocks currently sit at



Alan Tauber / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Junior setter Bridget Denson-Dorman had a great weekend and will need a repeat against the Florida Gators.

third place in the SEC East division behind both Kentucky and Florida.

The Gators enter tonight's game with a remarkable 14-1 overall record. They

VBALL ● 11

Spurrier changes focus against LSU

Football team drops first game against top opponent UGA; coach, players alter approach for Saturday's game

Michael Aguilar
SPORTS EDITOR

When Georgia rolled into Columbia earlier this season the Bulldogs were ranked No. 2 in the nation. USC coach Steve Spurrier told his players to be excited and ready to play because a victory over the highly-ranked Bulldogs would be the biggest in USC's football history.

However, when the scoreboard clock finally showed zeros, the Gamecocks lost by a count of 14-7. This Saturday No. 13 LSU is paying Williams-Brice Stadium a visit and Spurrier is taking a little bit of a different approach to the game.

"What we're getting ready to do this week is to play the best we can," Spurrier said. "Georgia came in and we talked about never beating a No. 2 team and this, that and the other ... If we play our game, play well and take care of the ball I think we'll be right there with [LSU]."

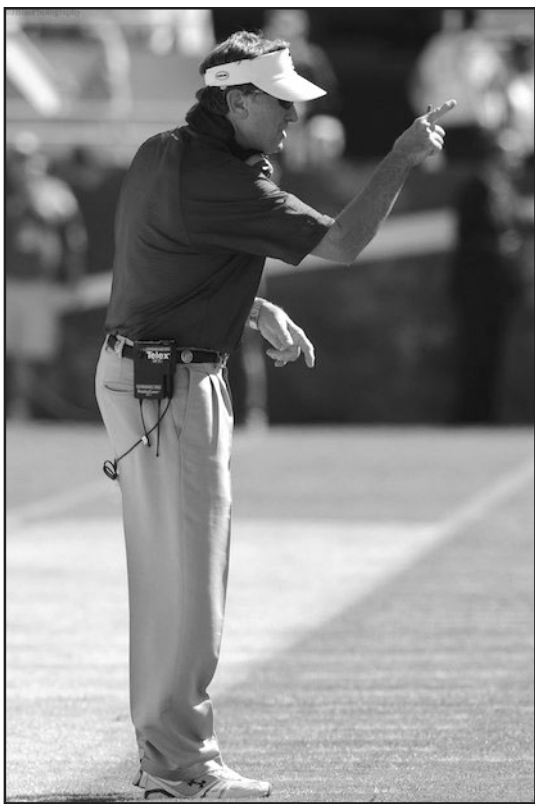
For Spurrier, there really is not any difference in week-to-week games. Whether the media or fans like to hear it, Spurrier claims to prepare for each game the exact same way.

"You try your best every game, Wofford, UAB," Spurrier said. "Yeah, we tried our best that week. Every week is the same."

However, Spurrier's team is going about this game and this season with a different style. Ever since Spurrier arrived at Carolina, some of his younger, more talented recruits have been getting reserved for older players. Although that gives younger players more experience, it has left a gap in the leadership department for the team. Now, in Spurrier's fourth year, some of his first recruits are finally stepping up to fill the gap in leadership that has plagued the team for the last four years.

"Some of the older guys are starting to take a little ownership of the team," Spurrier said. "Coaches, we can only do so much, it's the players that win the game."

These changes in mindset could not come at a more crucial time for Carolina. USC is facing another pivotal game in the season. For the last two weeks it has appeared that the Gamecocks' season has hung in the balance



Juan Blas / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Spurrier's offense will need to catch up to the defense's level to top LSU on Saturday.

each Saturday. This week, apparently, is going to be no different.

Three teams in the SEC East, Florida, Georgia and Vanderbilt, lead USC in the standings. Fortunately for Carolina all three of those teams have already taken one loss in the SEC themselves. This puts the Gamecocks in the unique position of having already dropped two games in the SEC but still being a major player in the title race.

Since the inception of the SEC title game in 1992, no team has appeared in the annual championship with more than two losses in the SEC. This means that Carolina virtually stands on the brink of extinction in terms of an SEC postseason. The gravity of the situation does not escape Spurrier.

"This is a key game for us," Spurrier said. "They sort of all have been the last couple weeks. But LSU is a big-name team as we know."

Fortunately for Carolina, Spurrier is finally seeing the results that he wants from both sides of the ball.

The old saying goes, "defense wins championships" and if that is the case then USC is primed and ready to make a run at the SEC title. Its stalwart defense is ranked No. 1 in the conference in total defense. The Gamecocks' defense has been able to swarm its opponents into submission and is now ranked

SPURRIER ● 11

Clemson coach’s departure should lift Gamecocks’ spirits

Future of Tigers’ program in danger; USC should see benefits of Bowden’s resignation in terms of wins, recruiting

Unless you have spent the week in a coma you undoubtedly have heard the news that Clemson University and their coach of 10 years Tommy Bowden have split ways. Despite the fact that Bowden has been named ACC Coach of the Year twice and has made a bowl game every year, he was let go halfway through a disappointing season in the upstate.

Bowden was informed that unless the 3-3 Tigers made the ACC Championship he would be let go, so instead of waiting, Bowden pulled the plug. While Clemson fans are cheering because they viewed Bowden as the problem, Gamecock fans should be cheering the decision to let Bowden go midseason.

First off, despite what many fans will let you believe, Bowden in his first nine years at Clemson was 7-2 against South Carolina. The fact that the Gamecocks get to face Dabo Swinney instead of Tommy Bowden in the final regular season game should be a blessing.

The biggest benefit for Carolina from all this mess in orange country is the negative publicity Clemson is getting in the media. It is extremely rare that a major program relieves its coach midseason, especially one with Bowden’s resume.

If the backlash from the decision was not bad enough, the reaction from his former players, especially Cullen Harper, has made the decision even worse. The players in that locker room appear to the public as

completely out of control as if they honestly quit on their coach.

Why would any of the premiere coaches that Clemson wants go into that situation? The athletic department, by letting these players come out and make comments saying that Bowden deserved to get fired, is saying to any potential candidates that we are here to support the players and not you.

Carolina will greatly benefit from the negative effect this whole situation will have on Clemson’s recruiting. As good of a coach as Bowden is, it can be argued that he is an even better recruiter. During his tenure at Clemson he consistently brought in NFL-caliber talent at every position.

Clemson and Bowden had already begun to form another great recruiting class that was among the nation’s best this season. However, following the departure of Bowden from Clemson many of those top recruits withdrew their verbal commitments and others will surely follow. Those players will now have a chance to visit other schools and take in their game day environment.

If Clemson had let Bowden go after the season like most programs do, those recruits would not have the opportunity to go visit other teams during the season. Carolina will now have a chance to claim all those previously brainwashed players that thought their future was at Clemson University.

I would like to close by issuing a thank you to Clemson athletic director Terry Don Phillips for his decision to remove Tommy Bowden during the season. Thanks to you Phillips, your university is getting tons of negative publicity, losing valuable recruits that will hopefully become Gamecocks and is without a coach that has beat our school six times this decade. You have helped our program more than you can imagine.

Comments on this story? E-mail sagckspt@mailbox.sc.edu

Gamecock Sports Honor Roll

STEPHEN GARCIA
REDSHIRT FRESHMAN QUARTERBACK
SEC FRESHMAN OF THE WEEK

CAPTAIN MUNNERLYN
JUNIOR CORNERBACK
SEC SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Garcia was able to breathe some life into the Gamecock offense for at least a quarter and a half against Kentucky last Saturday. The much maligned and highly touted freshman saw his first significant playing time in the SEC against the Wildcats. When Garcia entered the game USC was facing a 17-14 deficit. When he left the field after the game was over, Carolina stood tall with a 24-17 lead.

Munnerlyn essentially made the difference for the Gamecocks last weekend against Kentucky. After the first half, thanks to two long returns, one on a kickoff and one on a blocked kick, Munnerlyn had outgained the entire USC offense. Not only that, but since he took the blocked kick back for a touchdown, he scored just as many points as the offense did in the first half.

VBALL • Continued from 10

are 8-0 in conference play and remain undefeated in Gainesville with wins over LSU, Georgia, Tennessee and Kentucky at home already.

“They are a top 10 program and consistently compete for the best prospects in the country,” Somera said. “We need to serve tough because we can’t let [Florida] get into their system too often.”

Florida is led by 6-foot-2 redshirt freshman Kristy Jaeckel who has accumulated 195 kills this year with an average of 3.61 per game.

South Carolina hopes

the 6-foot-1 redshirt senior Salters will once again lead the Gamecocks on the road as she boasts over three kills per set and leads the conference in hitting percentage.

The other standout Gamecock for the volleyball team is the 6-foot-1 junior Ivana Kujundzic who leads the team with 3.77 kills per set to go along with 184 digs on the season.

If the two big players can convert in their match tonight, the Gamecocks should have a chance against one of the best teams in the country.

Since two of the three Gamecock losses have come

on the road, they will need their playmakers to step up in the hostile environment if they want a realistic chance at beating Florida tonight.

“You can make [traveling] an issue or you can say it’s not a big deal,” Somera said. “It’s the time of year that all teams are fairly stressed and overscheduled. Everybody is in the same boat.”

Wednesday’s game is slated start at 7 p.m. in Gainesville, as Sun Sports TV will be broadcasting the game live throughout Florida.

Comments on this story? E-mail sagckspt@mailbox.sc.edu

Gamecock Challenge

Football picks and predictions

Every week, our staff will predict 10 college games. If you think you know your stuff, submit your picks and name for these games by Thursday to sagckspt@mailbox.sc.edu.

This week’s games:

Georgia Tech at Clemson

Vanderbilt at Georgia

Ole Miss at Alabama

Kansas at Oklahoma

Ohio State at Michigan State

Miami (Fla.) at Duke

Missouri at Texas

Arkansas at Kentucky

Mississippi State at Tennessee

LSU at South Carolina

SPURRIER • Continued from 10

in the top half of the SEC in scoring defense, pass defense and total defense.

“Our defense is really playing well,” Spurrier said. “We were talking a little bit earlier that if our defense had played like this last year we might could have really made some noise ... Our defense has played well all year, they’re certainly first in the league right now in total defense. I used to say that if we could ever get in the top half we could get some really good play in here.”

On the other side of the ball, Spurrier is seeing improvements, however he still believes that there is much room to grow. That is certainly the truth as Carolina comes in the bottom half of every major

offensive statistical category besides pass offense. Spurrier knows the Gamecocks have a good way to go before they are at their best offensively.

“The offense is getting better,” Spurrier said. “We’re not punting that much, we’re converting a bunch of third downs but we’re not scoring touchdowns. We’re still firing at it though and we’re going to keep firing at it, see if we can’t hit some that

we’ve been missing.”

Although there is plenty of room for improvement, Spurrier only had one thing to say after being asked if this was the best USC team since he arrived at Carolina.

“Probably,” Spurrier said. “We’re still a little ways to go though, but it probably [is].”

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